(c) For enhancing the crude oil and gas production, during the X Five Year Plan period ONGC would be taking the following steps:—

(I) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes, ONGC has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated cost of around Rs. 10,000 crores.

(ii) fast track development of new discoveries in the Offshore. ONGC have taken up 3 offshore projects in this regard at a total cost of Rs. 1725 crores.

(iii) Increasing the reserve base through continuous exploration in various acreages under the company's operation, including the blocks awarded to them under three rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Demand of LPG

2729. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous increase in the demand for LPG during the last few years in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated increase in demand during 2002-03 as compared to demand in 1999-2000 together with the details thereof; and

(c) the import of LPG made during the above mentioned years to meet the demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated demand of LPG during 2002-03 is 8192 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) as comapred to 6029 TMT, during 1999-2000.

(c) The LPG imports made by Public Sector Oil Companies during 1999-2000 and the estimated imports during 2002-03 are as udner:

1999-2000	—	1390TMT
2002-03	—	960 TMT (Estimated)

Subsidized LPG for institutions

2730. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce subsidized LPG for Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the burden on exchequer on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) and (b) Subsidized LPG is available to the Government/Municipal Hospitals, Hostels of all schools and colleges or for mid day meal schemes, and the social welfare institutions being run for child welfare/women welfare/social welfare institutions (children homes, old-age homes, and homes for disabled persons, etc.).

(c) The annual burden on account of supplying subsidized LPG to aforesaid institutions is estimated to be around Rs. 43 crore.

Increase in prices of petrol and diesel

2731. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times prices of petrol, diesel were increased after the Administrative Price Mechanism for the petroleum products was dismantled; and